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CHAPTER X.

PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

§ 1. Introductory.

Charity and charitable effort in Australia may be classified under three headings, viz. :—(a) State ; (b) public ; and (c) private. To the first belong all institutions wholly provided for by the State, such as the principal hospitals for the insane in the various States, the Government and leased hospitals in Western Australia, and the Government asylums for the infirm in New South Wales. The other classes comprise public institutions of two kinds, viz. :—(i) those partially subsidized by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the principal metropolitan hospitals. In the latter are included institutions established and endowed by individuals for the benefit of the needy generally. All charitable movements of a private character are included in the third group. A more or less accurate statistical account is possible in classes (a) and (b), but in regard to (c) complete tabulation is, for obvious reasons, impossible. Owing to differences in the method and date of collection and tabulation it is impossible to bring statistics of charitable institutions to a common year. In general, there is considerable want of harmony in the statistical information available for the different States.

No poor-rate is levied in Australia. Reference to old-age pensions, invalid pensions, and maternity allowances, which are provided by the Commonwealth Government, will be found in the Chapter "Public Finance" herein.

From time to time relief funds have been organized for famine-stricken countries in various parts of the world, or for places where plagues, flood, fire, or earthquake have shown the need of urgent relief. Special funds were also raised for persons disabled or bereaved through war. Complete statistical information in regard to these forms of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duty of collectorship in charity appeals. In regard to subscriptions to the various patriotic funds which were instituted in consequence of the war, the total for Australia was estimated to exceed £12,500,000.

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

1. **Public Hospitals (other than Hospitals for the Insane).**—(i) *General.* All the State capitals have several large and well-equipped hospitals, and there is at least one in every important town. In large centres there are hospitals for infectious diseases, consumptives, women, children, incurables, etc.

The particulars given herein refer to public hospitals at the latest available date, and include all institutions affording hospital relief, whether general or special, with the exception of the hospitals for the insane, and private hospitals conducted commercially. It is considered that the extension of the scope of these statistics to embrace both general and special institutions will afford a better comparison as between the various States than the statistics previously issued relating to general hospitals only. The particulars for New South Wales in the following tables relate to hospitals operating under The Public Hospitals Act.

(ii) *Principal Hospitals in each State.* In earlier issues of the Official Year Book (See No. 22, pp. 481-2) particulars respecting staff, accommodation, etc., of each of the principal hospitals were given.

(iii) *Number, Staff, and Accommodation, 1933.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs, and accommodation for the year 1933, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table :—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION, 1933.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Hospitals ..	173	77	116	55	90	19	530
Medical Staff— Honorary	1,461	833	216	234	130	73	2,947
Salaried	253	178	138	47	21	25	662
Total	1,714	1,011	354	(b) 281	(c) 151	98	3,609
Nursing Staff	3,299	2,146	2,027	(b) 755	(c) 703	351	9,281
Accommodation— Number of beds and cots	10,953	7,129	5,978	(b) 2,245	2,788	1,387	30,480

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follow :—New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia—30th June, 1934 ; South Australia and Tasmania—31st December, 1933 ; Victoria—30th June, 1933. (b) Exclusive of particulars of Lying-in Homes, Sanatoria, and Convalescent Homes. (c) Exclusive of " Leased " Hospitals.

The figures for accommodation shown in the above table include, where available, a considerable number of beds and cots for certain classes of cases in out-door or verandah sleeping places.

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1933.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Indoor Relief—Inmates at beginning of year—							
Males	(b)	2,628	1,935	683	839	346	(b)
Females	(b)	2,625	1,665	746	657	437	(b)
Total	7,126	5,253	3,600	1,429	1,496	783	19,687
Admissions and Re-admis- sions during year—							
Males	(b)	34,428	42,984	13,399	19,722	7,370	(b)
Females	(b)	43,749	39,167	16,305	16,761	9,188	(b)
Total	162,117	78,177	82,151	29,704	36,483	16,558	405,190
Discharges—							
Males	72,674	31,815	40,933	12,561	18,621	6,978	183,582
Females	82,140	41,894	37,978	15,705	16,170	8,937	202,824
Total	154,814	73,709	78,911	28,266	34,791	15,915	386,406
Deaths—							
Males	3,981	2,541	2,120	842	1,019	414	10,917
Females	2,679	1,719	1,191	574	535	300	6,998
Total	6,660	4,260	3,311	1,416	1,554	714	17,915
Inmates at end of year—							
Males	(b)	2,700	1,866	679	921	324	(b)
Females	(b)	2,761	1,663	772	713	388	(b)
Total	7,769	5,461	3,529	1,451	1,634	712	20,556
Average Daily Number Resident—							
Males	(b)	(b)	(b)	744	(b)	348	(b)
Females	(b)	(b)	(b)	722	(b)	419	(b)
Total	7,538	5,381	3,561	(c) 1,466	1,641	767	20,354

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table. (b) Not available. (c) See footnote (b) to previous table.

(v) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1933 were as follow :—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1933.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust. (b)	Tas.	Total.
Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid ..	840,284	302,872	320,166	208,461	158,750	54,190	1,884,723
Municipal Aid ..	..	77,007	124,838	42,722	748	5,564	250,879
Public Subscriptions, Legacies, etc. ..	(d)348,593	253,188	80,690	19,047	9,027	7,427	717,972
Fees ..	365,575	158,655	161,538	71,087	87,881	44,560	889,296
Other ..	77,157	133,550	64,174	12,866	25,150	4,041	316,938
Total ..	1,631,609	925,272	751,406	354,183	281,556	115,782	4,059,808
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages	621,377	360,036	324,840	137,985	128,855	55,227	1,628,320
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds ..	51,549	13,489	13,800	13,455	5,708	6,675	104,676
All Other ..	564,516	375,530	356,723	152,023	120,523	51,927	1,621,242
Capital (c) ..	172,957	172,082	41,688	43,746	24,859	..	455,332
Total ..	1,410,399	921,137	737,051	347,209	279,945	113,829	3,809,570

(a) See note (a) to table on page 319.

(b) Excluding "Leased" Hospitals, except for amounts of Government and Municipal Aid.

(c) Includes such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings.

(d) Includes systematic contributions, £133,315.

(vi) *Summary for Five Years, 1929 to 1933.* Returns for the last five years of the number of hospitals in Australia, beds, admissions, indoor patients treated, deaths, and expenditure are given in the following table. The figures for the year 1929 relate mainly to general hospitals, while those for 1930 to 1933 relate to both general and special hospitals. It should be noted that the statistics for the States cannot be brought to a common year, and consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Number of institutions ..	480	508	513	531	530
Number of beds ..	24,867	28,041	(b) 27,574	29,066	30,480
Admissions during year ..	319,754	353,190	353,266	378,777	405,190
Total indoor cases treated ..	335,530	370,743	371,315	397,795	424,877
Deaths ..	18,004	18,361	(a) 10,482	17,455	17,915
Expenditure ..	£ 4,064,654	4,318,212	3,524,414	3,518,087	3,809,570

(a) Exclusive of New South Wales.

(b) Excluding out-door beds in New South Wales.

In addition to those admitted to the institutions, there are large numbers of out-patients. So far as the returns show there were 576,548 out-patients treated in New South Wales, 244,653 in Victoria, 209,803 in Queensland, 50,369 in South Australia, and 42,446 in Tasmania.

2. *Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.*—(i) *General.* The public provision for the care of indigent old people has been a feature of the social development of recent years in most countries. Numerous establishments exist in Australia for the housing and protection of persons no longer able to provide for themselves. These institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, bequests, etc.; while in many cases relatives of poor and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

An entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid is especially difficult in the case of benevolent institutions, because the services provided by these institutions are not always identical. For example, in Western Australia, the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which statistics are not kept separately. Since the chief function of the institution is to help the destitute, it has been included amongst benevolent asylums. In Victoria, although several of the hospitals were formerly also benevolent asylums, a separation was effected and asylum patients were transferred to appropriate institutions.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars respecting the accommodation and the numbers of inmates of the principal institutions were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (See No. 22, p. 485).

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1933 are given in the following table:—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1933.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government Aid ..	103,078	41,629	36,249	9,200	8,139	11,059	209,354
Municipal Aid ..	..	924	..	..	..	..	924
Public Subs., Legacies, etc. ..	2,942	13,130	451	..	..	..	16,523
Fees ..	1,836	38,004	22,178	5,520	12,478	3,763	83,779
Other ..	30,192	12,961	255	859	301	306	44,874
Total ..	138,048	106,648	59,133	15,579	20,918	15,128	355,454
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages ..	66,123	27,785	51,774	5,282	9,539	6,673	167,176
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	3,401	3,114	201	483	506	138	7,843
All Other (b) ..	69,021	74,879	7,483	9,814	10,893	8,317	180,407
Total ..	138,545	105,778	59,458	15,579	20,938	15,128	355,426

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follow:—New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania—31st December, 1933; Victoria—30th June, 1933; and Queensland and Western Australia—30th June, 1934. (b) Including £24,152 in Victoria and £20 in Western Australia, covering such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings.

3. *Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.*—(i) *General.* The methods of caring for orphans and neglected children differ extensively, inasmuch as some of the children are more or less segregated in orphanages and industrial schools, while others are boarded-out with their mothers or female relatives or with approved foster mothers. The children in orphanages and similar institutions may receive, in addition to primary education, some craft training. In all cases employment is found for the children on their discharge from the institution, and they remain for some time under the supervision of the proper authorities. The conditions under which orphans, neglected children and children boarded-out live, are subject to frequent inspections. Apart from the amounts shown in (iii) below the expenditure on orphanages, etc., in 1933 was approximately £360,000.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier Year Books (See No. 22, p. 486).

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions in 1933 of State Departments for the relief of neglected children :—

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—SUMMARY, 1933.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of children in institutions or boarded-out at State expense—							
Males	2,339	2,819	732	510	662	174	7,236
Females	1,930	2,016	578	378	539	108	5,549
Total	4,269	4,835	1,310	888	1,201	282	12,785
Number of children boarded-out with their mothers or female relatives or on probation— not included in above figures—							
Males	10,328	9,737	2,836	826	223	165	27,944
Females			2,764	690	237	138	
Total	10,328	9,737	5,600	1,516	460	303	27,944
Total children under State control or supervision..	14,597	14,572	6,910	2,404	1,661	585	40,729
Gross cost of children's relief	£ 449,794	£ 294,288	£ 197,499	£ 44,408	£ 26,305	£ 14,345	£ 1,026,639
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..	17,014	7,938	8,105	3,527	4,225	810	41,619
Net cost to State..	432,780	286,350	189,394	40,881	22,080	13,535	985,020

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follow :—New South Wales—31st December, 1934; Victoria—31st December, 1933; Queensland—finances, 31st December, 1933, other particulars, 30th June, 1934; Other States—30th June, 1934.

4. *Leper Hospitals.*—Isolation hospitals for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane); and the Northern Territory (Channel Island, near Darwin). At the end of 1934 there were 17 cases in residence at Little Bay, 63 at Peel Island, and 117 in the Northern Territory. During the year 1934, 11 cases of leprosy were reported in Australia, of which 8 were recorded in Queensland and 3 in the Northern Territory. There were 10 deaths from leprosy registered during 1934 in the Commonwealth and 5 in 1933.

5. *Hospitals for the Insane.*—(i) *General.* The methods of compiling statistics of insanity are fairly uniform throughout the States, but comparisons are of doubtful validity, because of an element of uncertainty as to possible differences in diagnosis in the early stages of the disease.

(ii) *Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1933.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, the medical and nursing staffs, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1933 :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1933.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions ..	13	(b) 13	3	2	5	1	37
Medical Staff—							
Males	32	29	6	6	5	3	81
Females	4	..	1	..	..	..	5
Total	36	29	7	6	5	3	86
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	964	718	286	106	128	63	2,265
Females	944	650	222	95	105	79	2,095
Total	1,908	1,368	508	201	233	142	4,360
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	10,901	6,248	3,320	1,538	1,759	661	24,427

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follow :—New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania—30th June, 1934 ; other States—31st December, 1933. (b) Includes five licensed private houses, in which cases at the end of the year numbered 87 ; other particulars not available.

(iii) *Patients, 1933.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1933 is given in the table hereunder :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1933.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of distinct persons treated during year (c)—							
Males	6,271	3,680	2,232	908	993	384	14,468
Females	5,300	3,911	1,521	773	514	360	12,379
Total	11,571	7,591	3,753	1,681	1,507	744	26,847
Number of patients on books at beginning of year—							
Males	5,509	3,274	1,923	768	871	340	12,685
Females	4,613	3,468	1,271	642	449	321	10,764
Total	10,122	6,742	3,194	1,410	1,320	661	23,449
Admissions and re-admissions exclusive of absconders retaken (c)—							
Males	774	406	309	140	122	44	1,795
Females	748	443	250	131	65	39	1,670
Total	1,522	849	559	271	187	83	3,471
Discharges (including absconders not retaken)—							
Males	352	153	169	65	65	16	820
Females	341	190	119	53	24	19	746
Total	693	343	288	118	89	35	1,566

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table. (b) Exclusive of five licensed private houses. (c) Exclusive of transfers to other Institutions.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1933 (a)—continued.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Deaths—							
Males	345	230	155	62	56	19	867
Females	239	206	96	36	31	23	631
Total	584	436	251	98	87	42	1,498
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	5,586	3,297	1,908	781	872	349	12,793
Females	4,781	3,515	1,306	684	459	318	11,063
Total	10,367	6,812	3,214	1,465	1,331	667	23,856
Average daily number resident—							
Males	5,238	2,819	1,914	776	850	340	11,937
Females	4,236	3,069	1,254	658	437	318	9,972
Total	9,474	5,888	3,168	1,434	1,287	658	21,909
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	4.21	3.64	3.80	2.68	3.72	3.03	3.78
Females	3.70	3.82	2.87	2.35	2.23	2.82	3.37
Persons	3.95	3.73	3.35	2.51	3.02	2.93	3.58
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	3.95	3.12	3.84	2.67	3.63	2.94	3.54
Females	3.29	3.35	2.77	2.27	2.13	2.81	3.05
Persons	3.63	3.23	3.35	2.47	2.93	2.87	3.30

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table.

(b) Exclusive of five licensed private houses.

In some States persons well advanced towards recovery are allowed to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are under supervision and their names are kept in the records.

(iv) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1933.* The revenue of Government asylums is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 84 per cent.

HOSPITALS (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE.—FINANCES, 1933.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of Patients	98,105	32,191	27,723	18,825	16,964	7,894	201,702
Other	2,484	4,619	782	2,858	1,782	105	12,630
Total	100,589	36,810	28,505	21,683	18,746	7,999	214,332
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages	365,164	234,057	121,764	46,179	53,413	26,832	847,409
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds	12,289	11,846	401	2,310	30,553	693	526,702
All Other	175,270	138,973	(b) 74,328	(b) 60,956			
Total	552,723	384,876	196,493	109,445	83,966	46,608	1,374,111
Expenditure per Average Daily Resident	£58/6/10	£65/7/4	£62/0/6	£76/6/5	£65/4/10	£70/16/8	62/14/5

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follow:—South Australia—31st December, 1933; other States—30th June, 1934.

(b) Includes £9,699 in Queensland and £20,991 in South Australia covering such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings, and Additions to Buildings.

(v) *Summary for Australia, 1929 to 1933.* The table hereunder gives a summary of hospitals for the insane in Australia during each of the five years 1929 to 1933. The figures for the States cannot be brought to a common year; consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years. Licensed houses are included in the number of institutions for Victoria, and in all particulars save expenditure for New South Wales. The figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols. In New South Wales the expenditure includes cost of Broken Hill patients treated in South Australian hospitals:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Number of institutions	38	37	36	36	37
„ „ beds	20,951	21,779	22,540	23,440	24,427
Admissions	3,471	3,443	3,314	3,318	3,471
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,625	1,558	1,497	1,523	1,566
Deaths	1,451	1,297	1,503	1,422	1,498
Expenditure—Total	£1,721,602	1,539,003	1,356,387	1,355,515	1,374,111
„ —Per Average Daily Resident	£83/11/10	£72/17/8	£63/2/6	£62/8/7	£62/14/5

(vi) *Number of Insane, 1929 to 1933.* The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, shows a continuous increase during the period covered by the following table and may possibly be a reflection of the financial stress of the period.

INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS.

State.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	9,377	9,670	9,894	10,122	10,367
Victoria	6,531	6,669	6,704	6,742	6,812
Queensland	3,042	3,108	3,162	3,194	3,214
South Australia	1,374	1,404	1,395	1,410	1,465
Western Australia	1,252	1,274	1,275	1,320	1,331
Tasmania	622	635	646	661	667
Australia	22,198	22,760	23,076	23,449	23,856

PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

New South Wales	3.71	3.79	3.84	3.89	3.95
Victoria	3.67	3.72	3.72	3.72	3.73
Queensland	3.34	3.35	3.37	3.37	3.35
South Australia	2.40	2.44	2.42	2.43	2.51
Western Australia	2.93	2.95	2.94	3.02	3.02
Tasmania	2.79	2.82	2.85	2.90	2.93
Australia	3.44	3.50	3.52	3.55	3.58

The difference between States in the number of insane persons in institutions per 1,000 of population may be due to some extent to differences in classification.

A more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases has resulted in a greater willingness in recent years to submit afflicted persons to treatment at an earlier stage, and an increase in the number of recorded cases, therefore, does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity.

(vii) *Causes of Insanity.* The general information available respecting the causes of the insanity of persons admitted to institutions is too unsatisfactory to be given in detail.

(viii) *Length of Residence in Hospital.* (a) *New South Wales and Victoria.* Particulars are not available regarding the average length of residence in hospitals of persons who died or were discharged during the year.

(b) *Queensland.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 9 years 36 days for males and 6 years 266 days for females; of those discharged 1 year 231 days for males and 1 year 225 days for females.

(c) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 5 years 3 months 23 days for males, and 9 years 2 months 16 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 5 months 14 days for males, and 11 months 16 days for females.

(d) *Western Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 9 years 21 days for males, and 4 years 8 months for females; of those discharged, 2 years 1 month for males and 3 years 18 days for females.

(e) *Tasmania.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 11 years 7 months 7 days for males, and 12 years 10 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 3 months 28 days for males, and 2 years 3 months 15 days for females.

6. *Care of the Feeble-minded.*—An account of the treatment of the feeble-minded, supplied by the Public Health Department of Tasmania, appeared in Official Year Book No. 19, pp. 477 and 478.

7. *Protection of Aborigines.*—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where these people are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come near the stations. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1933-34 was, New South Wales, £54,082; Victoria, £7,364; Queensland, £41,107; South Australia, £21,652; Western Australia, £23,151; Northern Territory, £6,820 (including £1,120 Government subsidy to aboriginal mission stations); total for Australia, £154,176. According to the latest census taken by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the numbers of full-blood and half-caste aborigines living in supervised camps in each State at 30th June, 1934, were as follow:—

ABORIGINES.(a)—AUSTRALIA—30th JUNE, 1934.

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Northern Territory.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Full-bloods ..	547	31	5,561	77	1,761	2,768	10,745
Half-castes ..	3,501	204	1,738	631	719	352	7,145

(a) Living in supervised camps. See letterpress above table.

Particulars regarding total numbers of aborigines in each State will be found in the Chapter dealing with Population.

8. **Royal Life Saving Society.**—In each of the State capitals, “centres” of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established, and in some States sub-centres have also been established in the larger provincial districts. Recently an Australian Federal Council of this Society has been formed with head-quarters at Melbourne, and each State centre or branch as it is now called is controlled by the new Organization. Saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves, and other suitable places. Numerous certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination throughout Australia, the numbers for the individual States for 1934 being:— New South Wales, 2,783; Victoria, 1,035; Queensland, 672; South Australia, 616; Western Australia, 1,150; and Tasmania, 192.

9. **Royal Humane Society.**—The Royal Humane Society of Australasia has for its objects (a) to grant awards for skill, promptness, and perseverance in life-saving, where the rescuer has risked his or her life; (b) to provide assistance in cases of danger and apparent death; (c) to restore the apparently drowned; (d) to collect and circulate the latest information regarding approved methods and apparatus for life-saving. Awards of medals and certificates are made numbering about 100 annually. Upwards of 300 lifebuoys have been provided at various places on the coasts, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs in the various States. Swimming is encouraged amongst school children, and awards are made for proficiency.

10. **Other Charitable Institutions.**—Owing to variety of name and function of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed results. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable, whilst the shelter and treatment afforded range from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity, to indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and the infirm. The institutions not so particularized include asylums for the deaf, dumb, and blind, infant homes, homes for the destitute and aged poor, industrial colonies, night shelters, crèches, homes of hope, rescue homes, free kindergarten and ragged schools, auxiliary medical charities, free dispensaries, benevolent societies and nursing systems, ambulance and health societies, boys’ brigades, humane and animals’ protection societies, prisoners’ aid associations, shipwreck relief societies, bush fires and mining accident relief funds, etc.

11. **Total Expenditure on Charities.**—Issues of the Official Year Book, prior to No. 24, embodied statistics of expenditure on charities. The returns available, however, included a portion only of direct expenditure by Governments, and, in general, there is lack of harmony in the information available for the different States. Pending the result of further inquiry it has been decided to omit this table from the present chapter.